

Remarks

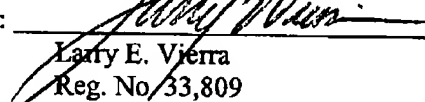
A telephonic interview was conducted with the Examiner on May 6th and May 8th, 2002 concerning the above claims. Also discussed was U. S. Patent No. 6,330,590, not officially of record at the time of the Interview, but raised by the Examiner as a possible reference.

Agreement was reached on the allowability of the above-amended claims over the prior art of record as well as U. S. Patent No. 6,330,590.

This substitute Amendment [B] is submitted to provide a clean copy of the amended claims, per a teleconference with Examiner Le on May 13, 2002, and an indication of the number of times each claim has been amended, per a teleconference with Examiner Le on May 14, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 15, 2002

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